

Makris, Susan

From: Makris, Susan
Sent: Friday, February 28, 2014 8:46 PM
To: Johnson, Paula D - (pauladj)
Subject: A couple more questions

Hi Paula, My colleagues have raised some additional questions about study design and conduct.

1. Do you recall (about) how old the animals were? Were the females routinely ordered at a particular age? Did the animals get used by a specific age before breeding?
2. Do you recall the (approximate) size of the cages? (Was it perhaps documented in another paper from your lab?) Was the cage size comparable to the "standard" shoebox size (roughly 18" x 9" x 8" high) or was it substantially larger to accommodate group housing?
3. It would be good to get more detail on how the animals were randomized to groups, even if not up to current standards. Such as, as dams were confirmed pregnant were they assigned truly randomly within the needed totals (such as to groups 1,1,1,2,1,1,2,2,2,2, if there were only 2 groups of 5 animals), or was something more systematic done?
4. The Dawson et al. (1993) paper clearly says that the vehicle was tap water, but never says what controls received. The Johnson et al. (2003) paper clearly says that controls received distilled water, but never says what the vehicle was. So, if both statements are correct, did all four treatment groups use tap water as the vehicle with distilled water given to controls? Alternatively, did the controls get the vehicle, and if so, which is it, tap water or distilled water?
5. The Dawson et al. (1993) paper mentions that TCE levels were measured by gas chromatography. Were TCE levels measured in the vehicle or control water (possibly confirming that there were no levels of TCE in the tap water)? Were TCE levels also measured in the 2.5 ppb and 250 ppb dose groups that were conducted later and reported in the Johnson et al. (2003) paper?

Thanks so much for your assistance! Sue

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